

points directly to the strength and growth of the character of our boys and girls. We heard the opening address of this conference, from the President of the Church who read the word of God to the Prophet Joseph Smith, that tobacco is not good for man. The statement is not qualified in any way. Scientists have demonstrated it; men who have tried to disprove it have failed, and we as a people stand committed to that command of God. Keep the habit of smoking and the use of tobacco in any form out of the lives of our boys. Resistance of the appetite will react upon the character and strengthen it. Just because a man has developed the habit is no justification for his continuing it. Just because some men may become immune (granting this man's argument), from the ill effects, that is no justification for its use in the priesthood of God.

FATHERS AND ELDERS SHOULD BE WORTHY OF IMITATION

Fathers and elders have the obligation of setting an example worthy of imitation to the youth. Boys want to look upon you as men. Their ideals incorporate in your life all the Christ-like attributes, as near as you can develop them, which Christ had when the Roman governor pointed to him, saying, "Behold the man." Remember, even though you have the habit, overcoming it will make you stronger.

"It is easy enough to be virtuous
When nothing tempts you to stray,
When without or within no voice of sin
Is luring your soul away.
But it is only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the soul that is worth the honor of earth
Is the soul that resists desire."

God bless our boys and our girls! May they stand out in clear, distinct manhood and womanhood to the admiration of all who see them, bearing witness that the power of the gospel, as revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith in this dispensation and as being preached throughout the world by two thousand of these young men and women, is indeed the power of God unto salvation, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ELDER JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH

My beloved brethren and sisters: I do not expect to present anything that is new, in fact we have not heard anything that is new during this conference, but we have heard the simple truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ, which have been from the beginning and which never grow old. I trust that what I may add may find a response in your hearts, that I may leave some impression that will abide with you when you return to your homes.

GOD'S MARVELOUS WORK

As I have listened to the most excellent testimonies and instructions that we have received during the sessions of this conference, my mind has turned to a prophecy given hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, by one of the prophets of Israel:

"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

"Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."

Thus prophesied Isaiah, speaking of these latter days. The Lord by revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith, in the year 1829, before the organization of the Church, declared that this time was at hand, and that he was about to commence his great and marvelous work among the children of men. I think it is a great privilege to have the opportunity to live in the world when this work is established—this marvelous work which is recognized not only by those who have come into the Church, but by many who are not in the Church. I look upon the kingdom of God, or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as being the corner stone of this great and marvelous work which the Lord was to perform. And as I look over this vast assembly into the faces of men who hold the Priesthood, it is impressed more deeply upon my mind that there is great significance in this organization, and in this Priesthood which has been restored for the salvation of the human family.

WE LIVE IN A MOST WONDERFUL AGE

We are living in a marvelous age, a most wonderful age. The Lord is fulfilling his purposes very rapidly, both among the Latter-day Saints and among the peoples of the earth, everywhere. I am fully convinced that the time is now here that was also spoken of by another of the prophets, who said:

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

"And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

GREAT MODERN INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES

Of course, it was those who held the Priesthood and who were members of the Church, who had made covenant with God, that should prophesy and see visions, but the Lord was also to pour out his Spirit on others beyond the borders of modern Israel.

I remember sitting in a meeting some thirty or more years ago when that meeting was being addressed by one of the members of the

Council of Twelve Apostles, who has long since departed this life. In the course of his remarks he made a statement that impressed me and which has stayed with me since that time. It was to the effect that the time would come when men would communicate from city to city, conversing without the aid of the telephone or intervening wires. As I pondered over it I thought: Of course, that time will come, but it cannot come until after Christ comes again, and his truth shall have been acknowledged over the earth during the Millennium. Then such great power will be exercised, but even then it will be granted to those who are in the Church and to no others. I have lived, however, to see the fulfilment of that prediction. I am witnessing it now, as no doubt many are who are listening to these services throughout the land, for the voice of the speaker is carried abroad in each instance, how far I do not know. The voice is heard and recognized, perhaps a thousand miles away, and the words leave their impression on the mind of those who are listening almost the same as if they were sitting in the presence of the speaker, as you are doing. I think this is very wonderful; and yet, this great discovery did not come through revelation to a member of the Church; it was not sent through one who holds the Priesthood, but it came through one not of the Church but who was inspired of the Lord to give this great blessing to the world. So with many other things, the automobile and the airplane as means of transportation; the talking machine and all of these great discoveries that have come through scientific research, they have come, most of them, outside of the Church. Yet I maintain that had there been no restoration of the gospel, and no organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, there would have been no radio; there would have been no airplane, and there would not have been the wonderful discoveries in medicine, chemistry, electricity, and the many other things wherein the world has been benefited by such discoveries. Under such conditions these blessings would have been withheld, for they belong to the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times of which the restoration of the gospel and the organization of the Church constitute the central point, from which radiates the Spirit of the Lord throughout the world. The inspiration of the Lord has gone out and takes hold of the minds of men, though they know it not, and they are directed by the Lord. In this manner he brings them into his service that his purposes and his righteousness, in due time, may be supreme on the earth.

INSPIRATION AND THE GREATER ACCUMULATION OF KNOWLEDGE THE CAUSE

Now let me say briefly that I do not believe for one moment that these discoveries have come by chance, or that they have come because of superior intelligence possessed by men today over those who lived in ages that are past. They have come and are coming because the time is ripe, because the Lord has willed it, and because he has poured out his Spirit on all flesh.

I know it is quite generally believed that the people living now are more intelligent than were those who lived in former ages. I cannot accept this view because, with the understanding I have of the restoration of the gospel and of the dealings of our eternal Father with his children from the very beginning, I know that he would not choose and send into this world inferior intelligences to stand at the head of his work. We are informed that in the councils that were held in the heavens, when tests were made, the spirits of the men, then living in the pre-mortal state in the presence of the Father and the Son, were chosen to stand upon the earth in the various ages of the world's history to hold particular positions of responsibility because of superior intelligence manifested in the spirit world. I am satisfied with the thought that among these spirits there was none greater, except the Savior of the world himself, than the one who was called to stand at the head of the human family. So it is not because of greater intelligence, but because, no doubt, of the greater accumulation of knowledge together with the inspiration that comes from the Lord as he grants it unto men, that we receive the benefit of these blessings. The time has come for the Father to gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, that the fulness of his work may be consummated. For this reason we are seeing and enjoying the great advantages of our time. The prophets anciently, I am sure, spoke of these marvelous events that should come to pass in the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.

HAS THE RACE PROGRESSED INTELLECTUALLY?

I have before me an excerpt taken from a lecture delivered on the 9th day of February, 1925, before the Philosophical Society of Great Britain, by Avery H. Forbes, a member of that distinguished body. Discussing the question, "Has the race progressed intellectually?" he makes this comment:

"That information, knowledge, facts, have vastly increased is undisputed, but that the increase is favorable to the moral nature, or even to the worldly wisdom, is yet to be shown."

He then quotes the following from Alfred Russell Wallace, one of the noted scientists of the past century:

"The great majority of educated persons hold the opinion that we are more intellectual and wiser than men of past ages, that our mental faculties have increased in power, but the idea is totally unfounded."

HAS THE RACE MADE MORAL PROGRESS?

Then, discussing another problem, "Has the race progressed morally?" Mr. Forbes concludes that it has not, but on the contrary, with the greater knowledge that has been imparted and the greater power to act, men have used these agencies for the creation of greater

crime. However; they have had the means within their hands to benefit mankind and to bring about increased righteousness. I think his conclusion is in perfect harmony with the revelations of the Lord to his people.

WHERE MUCH IS GIVEN MUCH IS REQUIRED

In conclusion, I want to call your attention to this fact, that members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who have received the greater light and have made greater covenants to serve the Lord, are under the necessity of keeping those covenants and commandments in righteousness and humility. We are living in perilous times, notwithstanding the remarkable wonders and accumulated knowledge of the present age. This is a day of ungodliness and increased iniquity and men everywhere are paying little heed to the commandments of the Lord. These evil conditions which confront us tend to lead us from the path of truth. As members of the Church we have greater opportunity, because of modern revelation and the Priesthood, to serve our fellows and to teach them the ways of eternal life. Let us remember the words of the Lord to the Prophet Joseph Smith:

“For of him unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the greater condemnation.

“Ye call upon my name for revelations, and I give them unto you; and inasmuch as ye keep not my sayings, which I give unto you, ye become transgressors; and justice and judgment are the penalty which is affixed unto my law.”

I would like to present all of this revelation, but you may read it yourselves. It is found in section eighty-two of the Doctrine and Covenants. I will, however, read one or two more verses:

“And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a new commandment, that you may understand my will concerning you;

“Or, in other words, I give unto you direction how you may act before me, that it may turn to you for your salvation.

“I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.”

The man who has received the truth and yet will not walk in it deserves the greater condemnation. A member of this Church who will indulge in the use of tobacco, who will violate the Word of Wisdom, who refuses to pay his tithing, to keep the Sabbath day, or who in any other way will not hearken to the word of the Lord, is not loyal to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I was thinking, when Brother Rey L. Pratt was speaking of his labors in South America, how certain Italian brethren came confessing their sins and in humility forsaking them—giving up everything in the world for the gospel's sake because they had found the truth, how characteristic that is of those who receive the gospel out in the world. Yet, here at home in the stakes of Zion, in the shadows of Temples, are to be found those who are numbered with the Church who

will not keep the commandments of the Lord. Some of them have made covenant in holy places, and yet they do not value the truth; they do not value the teachings of the servants of the Lord and they will not walk in the knowledge which they possess, much less by every word that proceeds forth from the mouth of God. These shall receive the greater condemnation. Oh how I wish all who live in the stakes of Zion could get the same spirit of humility and faith that is manifested by these humble converts out in the world. What a power we would be for righteousness. May we seek for it, I pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRESIDENT HEBER J. GRANT

I made a memorandum to speak of the statue which has been completed and installed in the Bureau of Information, commemorating one of the most remarkable incidents in the history of the Church; namely, the migration to these valleys of men and women in this great cause, pulling handcars and bringing their blankets with them. Brother Knaphus has done himself proud in producing this small statue, which can be seen in the Bureau of Information building. Some of the most heroic and self-sacrificing pioneer work that was ever done by those coming to the valleys is accredited to the people who came in the handcart companies.

The choir and congregation sang, "Redeemer of Israel."

The benediction was pronounced by Elder C. Alvin Orme, president of the Tooele stake of Zion.

The conference adjourned until 10 o'clock a. m., October 5, 1926.